

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12-56 and 58-65 were previously pending in this application. Within the Office Action, Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12-56 and 58-65 have been rejected. By the above amendment, Claims 1, 19, 24, 29, 33, 36, 53, 64 and 65 have been amended and Claims 2 and 56 have been canceled. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 12-55 and 58-65 are currently pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Within the Office Action, Claims 64 and 65 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, it is stated that the limitation "without opening a separate browser" is not supported within the specification. The applicants respectfully disagree. However, in order to further the prosecution of the present application, the limitation "without opening a separate browser" has been amended to "in a single screen" within Claims 64 and 65. This limitation is supported in the specification by at least the following paragraph

[a] further advantage is that the present invention enables the user to conveniently and efficiently navigate in and select categories, channels, and individual content in the same screen, without navigating through different screens. [Present Specification, page 4, lines 7-9]

For at least these reasons, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 12, 14, 19-22, 24-30, 32, 34-43, 45, 48-56, 58, 60 and 62-65 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,623,613 to Rowe et al. (hereinafter "Rowe") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,940,073 to Klosterman et al. (hereinafter "Klosterman"). Rowe teaches a system for displaying programming information. Rowe teaches that programming information is presented via a schedule display having a category display, a subcategory display and a program display. As

recognized within the Office Action, Rowe does not teach interactive navigation of the individual content.

Within the Office Action, it is stated that Klosterman teaches navigating individual content. The applicants respectfully disagree. Klosterman teaches a method and system for displaying other information in a television program guide. Klosterman teaches displaying a virtual channel that may launch an application, connect to an internet site, connect to an information guide and the like. [Klosterman, col. 9, lines 24-27] Klosterman further teaches that the system will launch a web-browser when the user selects an information region that promotes a website, or tunes to a virtual channel containing a URL. [Klosterman, col. 9, lines 35-41, Figure 6(c)] However, Klosterman does not teach displaying the website in conjunction with the schedule guide *within the same screen*. As Klosterman teaches, if a user selects a web page, that web page is displayed in a *browser separate from the program guide*. [Klosterman, col. 9, lines 35-67, Figures 6(c) and 6(d)]

As discussed above, Rowe does not teach interactive navigation of the individual content. Accordingly, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, interactively navigating individual content within the graphical user interface which also displays the set of categories and the plurality of sets of channels within the same screen.

As discussed within the Office Action, Rowe does teach displaying supplemental information within the text description section 94 such as icons representing star ratings, closed captioning, rerun, audience rating, etc. [Rowe, col. 15, line 59 - col. 16, line 4] However, Rowe does not teach that any of this supplemental information is interactive. Rowe only teaches that this supplemental information is displayed. Accordingly, Rowe does not teach interactively navigating the individual content or the supplemental information, such as the above listed icons.

As also discussed within the Office Action, Klosterman teaches that the system will launch a web-browser when the user selects an information region that promotes a website, or tunes to a virtual channel containing a URL. [Klosterman, col. 9, lines 35-41, Figure 6(c)] However, as discussed above, Klosterman teaches that if a user selects a web page, that web page is displayed in a *browser separate from the program guide*. Accordingly, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, interactive navigation of individual content within the graphical user interface which also displays the set of categories and the plurality of sets of channels within the same screen.

In contrast to the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination, the content navigator graphical user interface system and method of the present invention enables a user to

display, access and navigate among a multiplicity of internet websites and television programming channels to access a multiplicity of categories, channels and individual content of potential interest to the user. The system and method of the present invention provide comprehensive displaying of such categories, channels and individual content to enable effective access and navigation therein, while enabling the use of substantial screen area for individual content of potential interest and providing access to linked information and increasing searching capabilities. The system also enables the user to navigate and select among the categories, related channels and associated individual content, from the same screen. The system of the present invention further enables the user to interactively navigate in the individual content. The individual content sources include interactive data and television programming sources. As described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, interactively navigating individual content within the graphical user interface which also displays the set of categories and the plurality of sets of channels within the same screen. Further, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, individual content that includes television programming and interactive data. Still further, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious interactive navigation of individual content that includes television programming and interactive data within the graphical user interface which also displays the set of categories and the plurality of sets of channels within the same screen.

The independent Claim 1 is directed to a system for enabling the simultaneous displaying in a display of a set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual content, of potential interest to a user, and for enabling the selection of a category, a related channel and associated individual content by the user. The system of Claim 1 comprises a graphical user interface adapted to enable the user to navigate interactively in the individual content, wherein the graphical user interface includes a set of categories of potential interest to a user, a plurality of sets of channels, wherein each set of channels is related to a category and individual content associated with each of the channels, wherein the individual content includes television programming and interactive data. It is further specified in Claim 1 that the graphical user interface is adapted to enable the simultaneous displaying in a same screen in a display of the set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual content, of potential interest to the user, and is adapted to enable the selection of a category, a related channel, and associated individual content by the user. It is further specified in Claim 1 that the graphical user interface is further adapted to enable the user to navigate within the same screen in the display among the categories, related channels, and associated individual content. As described above, neither

Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, interactively navigating individual content within the graphical user interface which also displays the set of categories and the plurality of sets of channels. Further, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, individual content that includes television programming and interactive data. As also described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious a graphical user interface which is adapted to enable the user to navigate within the same screen in the display among the categories, related channels, and associated individual content. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination.

Claim 2 has been canceled by the above amendment. Claims 6-9, 12 and 14 are all dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination. Accordingly, the Claims 6-9, 12 and 14 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 19 is directed to a system for enabling the simultaneous displaying in a display of a set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual content, of potential interest to a user, and for enabling the selection of a category, a related channel, and associated individual content by the user. The system of Claim 19 comprises a graphical user interface adapted to enable the user to navigate interactively in the individual content, wherein the graphical user interface includes a set of categories of potential interest to a user, a plurality of sets of channels, wherein each set of channels is related to a category and individual content associated with each of the channels, wherein the individual content includes television programming and interactive data. The system of Claim 19 further comprises means for enabling the user to select among the set of categories, the related set of channels and the associated individual content. It is further specified in Claim 19 that the graphical user interface is adapted to enable the simultaneous displaying in a same screen in a display of the set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual content, of potential interest to the user, and is adapted to enable the selection of a category, a related channel, and associated individual content by the user. It is further specified in Claim 19 that the means for enabling enables the user to select among the set of categories, the related set of channels, and the associated individual content within the same screen in the display. As described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, interactively navigating individual content within the graphical user interface which also displays the set of categories and the plurality of sets of channels. Further, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination

teach or make obvious, individual content that includes television programming and interactive data. As also described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious a means for enabling which enables the user to select among the set of categories, the related set of channels, and associated individual content within the same screen in the display. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 19 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination.

Claims 20-22 are all dependent upon the independent Claim 19. As discussed above, the independent Claim 19 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination. Accordingly, the Claims 20-22 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 24 is directed to a system for enabling the simultaneous displaying in a display of a set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual content, of potential interest to a user, and for enabling the selection of a category, a related channel and associated individual content by the user. The system of Claim 24 comprises a graphical user interface adapted to enable the user to navigate interactively in the individual content, wherein the graphical user interface includes a set of categories of potential interest to a user, a plurality of sets of channels, wherein each set of channels is related to a category and individual content associated with each of the channels, comprising television programming and interactive data. The system of Claim 24 also comprises means for establishing an interactive data connection. It is further specified in the Claim 24 that the graphical user interface is adapted to enable the simultaneous displaying in a same screen in a display of the set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual interactive data content of potential interest to the user, and is adapted to enable the selection of a category, a related channel, and associated individual content by the user. It is also specified in the Claim 24 that the graphical user interface is further adapted to enable the user to navigate within the same screen in the display among the categories, related channels, and associated individual content. As described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, interactively navigating individual content within the graphical user interface which also displays the set of categories and the plurality of sets of channels. Further, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, individual content that includes television programming and interactive data. As also described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious a graphical user interface which is adapted to enable the user to navigate within the same screen in the display among the categories, related channels, and associated individual content.

For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 24 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination.

Claims 25-28 are all dependent upon the independent Claim 24. As discussed above, the independent Claim 24 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination. Accordingly, the Claims 25-28 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 29 is directed to a system for enabling the simultaneous displaying in a display of a set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual content, of potential interest to a user, and for enabling the selection of a category, a related channel, and associated individual content including extensions, of potential interest to a user. The system of Claim 29 comprises a graphical user interface adapted to enable the user to navigate interactively in the individual content, wherein the graphical user interface includes a set of categories of potential interest to a user, a plurality of sets of channels, wherein each set of channels is related to a category and individual content associated with each of the channels, including television programming, interactive data and extensions. It is further specified in Claim 29 that the graphical user interface is adapted to enable the simultaneous displaying in a same screen in a display of the set of categories, a set of related channels, associated individual content, and extensions, of potential interest to the user, and is adapted to enable the selection of a category, a related channel and associated individual content, and extensions, by the user. It is also specified in Claim 29 that the graphical user interface is further adapted to enable the user to navigate within the same screen in the display among the categories, related channels, and associated individual content. As described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, interactively navigating individual content within the graphical user interface which also displays the set of categories and the plurality of sets of channels. Further, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, individual content that includes television programming, interactive data and extensions. As also described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious a graphical user interface which is adapted to enable the user to navigate within the same screen in the display among the categories, related channels, and associated individual content. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 29 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination.

Claims 30 and 32 are both dependent upon the independent Claim 29. As discussed above, the independent Claim 29 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their

combination. Accordingly, the Claims 30 and 32 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 33 is directed to a system for enabling the simultaneous displaying in a display of a set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual content, of potential interest to a user, and for enabling the selection of a category, a related channel and associated individual content by the user. The system of Claim 33 comprises a graphical user interface, which is comprised of a content description language and is adapted to enable the user to navigate interactively in the individual content, wherein the graphical user interface includes a set of categories of potential interest to a user, a plurality of sets of channels, wherein each set of channels is related to a category and individual content associated with each of the channels, wherein the individual content includes television programming and interactive data. It is also specified in Claim 33 that the graphical user interface is adapted to enable the simultaneous displaying in a same screen in a display of the set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual content, of potential interest to the user, and is adapted to enable the selection of a category, a related channel and associated individual content by the user. It is further specified in Claim 33 that the graphical user interface is further adapted to enable the user to navigate within the same screen in the display among the categories, related channels, and associated individual content. As described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, interactively navigating individual content within the graphical user interface which also displays the set of categories and the plurality of sets of channels. Further, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, individual content that includes television programming and interactive data. As also described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious a graphical user interface which is adapted to enable the user to navigate within the same screen in the display among the categories, related channels, and associated individual content. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 33 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination.

Claims 34 and 35 are both dependent upon the independent Claim 33. As discussed above, the independent Claim 33 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination. Accordingly, the dependent Claims 34 and 35 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 36 is directed to a system for enabling the simultaneous displaying in a display of a set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual

content, of potential interest to a user, and for enabling the selection of a category, a related channel and associated individual content by the user. The system of Claim 36 comprises a graphical user interface adapted to enable the user to navigate interactively in the individual content, wherein the graphical user interface includes a set of categories of potential interest to a user, a plurality of sets of channels, wherein each set of channels is related to a category and individual content associated with each of the channels, wherein the individual content in each selectable channel includes information which is related to the selectable channel, including television programming and interactive data. It is specified in Claim 36 that the graphical user interface is adapted to enable the simultaneous displaying in a same screen in a display of the set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual content, of potential interest to the user, and is adapted to enable the selection of a category, a related channel and associated individual content by the user. It is further specified in Claim 36 that the graphical user interface is further adapted to enable the user to navigate within the same screen in the display among the categories, related channels, and associated individual content. As described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, interactively navigating individual content within the graphical user interface which also displays the set of categories and the plurality of sets of channels. Further, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, individual content that includes television programming and interactive data. As also described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious a graphical user interface which is adapted to enable the user to navigate within the same screen in the display among the categories, related channels, and associated individual content. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 36 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination.

Claims 37-43, 45 and 48-52 are all dependent upon the independent Claim 36. As discussed above, the independent Claim 36 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination. Accordingly, the Claims 37-43, 45 and 48-52 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 53 is directed to a method of enabling the simultaneous displaying in a display of a set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual content, of potential interest to a user, and for enabling the selection of a category, a related channel, and associated individual content by the user, in a system which includes a graphical user interface including a set of categories, a plurality of sets of channels, wherein each set of channels is related to a category, and individual content associated with each of the channels,

wherein the graphical user interface is adapted to enable the simultaneous displaying in a same screen in a display of the set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual content, of potential interest to the user, is adapted to enable the selection of a category, a related channel and associated individual content by the user, and is further adapted to enable the user to navigate interactively in the individual content, wherein the individual content includes television programming and interactive data. The method of Claim 53 comprises initially displaying the categories of potential interest to the user, enabling the user to select a desired category, displaying a plurality of the channels in a set of channels related to the selected category, enabling the user to navigate interactively in the individual content, and enabling the user to navigate among the categories, related channels, and associated individual content from the same screen. As described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, interactively navigating individual content within the graphical user interface which also displays the set of categories and the plurality of sets of channels. Further, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, individual content that includes television programming and interactive data. As also described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious enabling the user to navigate among the categories, related channels, and associated individual content from the same screen. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 53 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination.

Claim 56 has been canceled by the above amendment. Claims 54, 55, 58, 60, 62 and 63 are all dependent upon the independent Claim 53. As discussed above, the independent Claim 53 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination. Accordingly, the Claims 54, 55, 58, 60, 62 and 63 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 64 is directed to a system for enabling the simultaneous displaying in a display of a set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual content, of potential interest to a user, and for enabling the selection of a category, a related channel, and associated individual content by the user. The system of Claim 64 comprises a graphical user interface adapted to enable the user to navigate interactively in the individual content in a single screen within the graphical user interface. The graphical user interface of Claim 64 includes a set of categories of potential interest to a user, a plurality of sets of channels, wherein each set of channels is related to a category and individual content associated with each of the channels, wherein the individual content includes television programming and interactive

data. It is further specified in Claim 64 that the graphical user interface is adapted to enable the simultaneous displaying in a display of the set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual content, of potential interest to the user, and is adapted to enable the selection of a category, a related channel, and associated individual content by the user, within the single screen. As described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, interactively navigating individual content within the graphical user interface which also displays the set of categories and the plurality of sets of channels. Further, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, individual content that includes television programming and interactive data. As also described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious a graphical user interface which is adapted to enable the selection of a category, a related channel and associated individual content by the user, within the single screen. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 64 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination.

The independent Claim 65 is directed to a method of enabling the simultaneous displaying in a display of a set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual content, of potential interest to a user, and for enabling the selection of a category, a related channel, and associated individual content by the user, in a system which includes a graphical user interface including a set of categories, a plurality of sets of channels, wherein each set of channels is related to a category, and individual content associated with each of the channels, wherein the graphical user interface is adapted to enable the simultaneous displaying in a single screen on a display of the set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual content, of potential interest to the user, is adapted to enable the selection of a category, a related channel and associated individual content by the user, and is further adapted to enable the user to navigate interactively in the individual content, wherein the individual content includes television programming and interactive data. The method of Claim 65 comprises initially displaying the categories of potential interest to the user, enabling the user to select a desired category, and displaying a plurality of the channels in a set of channels related to the selected category, enabling the user to navigate interactively in the individual content within the single screen on the display. As described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, interactively navigating individual content within the graphical user interface which also displays the set of categories and the plurality of sets of channels. Further, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious, individual content that includes television programming and interactive data. As also described above, neither Rowe,

Klosterman nor their combination teach or make obvious enabling the user to navigate interactively in the individual content within the single screen on the display. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 65 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination.

Within the Office Action, Claims 23, 44 and 46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rowe and Klosterman. Claim 23 is dependent upon the independent Claim 19. Claims 44 and 46 are both dependent upon the independent Claim 36. As discussed above, the independent Claims 19 and 36 are both allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination. Accordingly, the dependent Claims 23, 44 and 46 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claims 3, 4, 59 and 61 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rowe and Klosterman in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,880,768 to Lemmons et al. Claims 3 and 4 are both dependent upon the independent Claim 1. Claims 59 and 61 are both dependent upon the independent Claim 53. As discussed above, the independent Claims 1 and 53 are both allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination. Accordingly, the dependent Claims 3, 4, 59 and 61 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claim 31 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rowe and Klosterman in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,532,754 to Young et al. Claim 31 is dependent upon the independent Claim 29. As discussed above, the independent Claim 29 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination. Accordingly, the dependent Claim 31 is also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claims 13, 15, 18, 33-35 and 47 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rowe and Klosterman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,240,555 to Shoff et al. Shoff teaches an interactive entertainment system for presenting supplemental interactive content together with continuous video programs. Shoff teaches supplying supplemental interactive content presented alongside traditional broadcast programs. Shoff does not teach interactively navigating individual content within a graphical user interface which also displays the set of categories and the plurality of sets of channels. As described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman nor their combination teaches interactively navigating individual content within the graphical user interface which also displays the set of categories and the plurality of sets of channels within the same screen. Accordingly, neither Rowe,

Klosterman, Shoff nor their combination teach or make obvious, interactively navigating individual content within the graphical user interface which also displays the set of categories and the plurality of sets of channels within the same screen.

Claims 13, 15 and 18 are all dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination. Accordingly, the dependent Claims 13, 15 and 18 are all allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 33 is directed to a system for enabling the simultaneous displaying in a display of a set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual content, of potential interest to a user, and for enabling the selection of a category, a related channel and associated individual content by the user. The system of Claim 33 comprises a graphical user interface, which is comprised of a content description language and is adapted to enable the user to navigate interactively in the individual content, wherein the graphical user interface includes a set of categories of potential interest to a user, a plurality of sets of channels, wherein each set of channels is related to a category and individual content associated with each of the channels, wherein the individual content includes television programming and interactive data. It is also specified in Claim 33 that the graphical user interface is adapted to enable the simultaneous displaying in a same screen in a display of the set of categories, a set of related channels, and associated individual content, of potential interest to the user, and is adapted to enable the selection of a category, a related channel and associated individual content by the user. It is further specified in Claim 33 that the graphical user interface is further adapted to enable the user to navigate within the same screen in the display among the categories, related channels, and associated individual content. As described above, neither Rowe, Klosterman, Shoff nor their combination teach or make obvious, interactively navigating individual content within the graphical user interface which also displays the set of categories and the plurality of sets of channels, within the same screen in the display. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 33 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman, Shoff and their combination.

Claims 34 and 35 are both dependent upon the independent Claim 33. As discussed above, the independent Claim 33 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman, Shoff and their combination. Accordingly, the dependent Claims 34 and 35 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 47 is dependent upon the independent Claim 36. As discussed above, the independent Claim 36 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: SONY-20900

combination. Accordingly, the dependent Claim 47 is also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claims 16 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rowe and Klosterman in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,673,089 to Yuen et al. Claims 16 and 17 are both dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Rowe, Klosterman and their combination. Accordingly, the dependent Claims 16 and 17 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be greatly appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

By: Jonathan O. Owens
Jonathan O. Owens
Reg. No. 37,902

Attorneys for Applicants

Dated: January 6, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP.

Date: 1-6-04 By: Jonathan O. Owens